

Winchester Boulevard Class IV Bicycle Lane Project – Frequently Asked Questions

- **What are the goals of the project?**
 - The Winchester Boulevard Class IV Bike Lane project goals are to improve safety for people walking, biking, and driving along the corridor and to transform Winchester Boulevard into a street that provides comfortable bicycle facilities, connecting bicyclists to more destinations and encouraging more bicycling trips.
- **What is a Class IV bikeway?**
 - A Class IV Bikeway (also referred to as a protected bikeway) is a bikeway for exclusive use by bicycles and includes a physical separation between the bike lane and vehicular traffic. The separation may include, but is not limited to, grade separation, flexible posts, inflexible physical barriers, or on-street parking.
- **Why is one northbound lane on Winchester between Blossom Hill Road and Lark Avenue being removed?**
 - The second northbound travel lane will be removed to create space for protected bikeway in each direction. This will improve safety and comfort for people biking and walking, by creating more space and clearer delineation between the vehicle travel way and the bike lane (which also creates better separation between the travel lane and the sidewalk).
- **What type of traffic analysis has been completed on Winchester Boulevard to support the proposed lane removals/modifications?**
 - The removal of the second northbound through lane between Blossom Hill Road and Lark Avenue has been studied at both the roadway and intersection levels based on traffic data collected before COVID. The number of cars is actually slightly higher in the southbound direction than the northbound direction. The current single-lane southbound direction experiences minimal congestion south of Lark Avenue and we would expect similar conditions in the northbound direction even with the lane removal. The removal of the second northbound travel lane is not anticipated to substantially increase traffic delay along the corridor. The removal of the second lane is necessary to complete the project and will allow for the installation of separated bike lanes that will help protect some of our road's most vulnerable users.
- **Will the removal of one northbound lane result in traffic delays for vehicles traveling northbound on Winchester between Blossom Hill Road and Lark Avenue?**
 - The removal of the second northbound through lane may slightly increase delay for people driving along Winchester Boulevard, but the delay is not anticipated to be substantial and the road is expected to continue to operate with minimal congestion. The segment of Winchester Boulevard south of Lark Avenue has two

northbound lanes and one southbound lane. Despite having more capacity, A.M. northbound volumes are lower than P.M. southbound volumes, suggesting that there is excess capacity in the northbound direction.

- **Why is parking being removed?**
 - Some parking will be impacted along Winchester Boulevard to allow for space to implement the protected bike lanes and to provide adequate sight distance at driveways and intersections.

- **What research was done regarding the use of the existing parking on Winchester before recommending removal?**
 - The existing parking conditions were analyzed using both in-person field visits and Google Maps. Inventory of the number of existing parking spaces was taken using Google Maps. Parking occupancy was observed at 10:30 am and midnight in July of 2020. For most of the Winchester Blvd corridor, the proposed number of parking spaces remains greater than the observed parking occupancy.

- **Will U-turns be allowed on Winchester Boulevard?**
 - Currently, within the project corridor, U-turns are only permitted for southbound Winchester Boulevard at Daves Avenue and Lark Avenue (U-turns are not permitted at any intersection for northbound Winchester Boulevard). The proposed street design cannot accommodate space for safe U-turns, and the project would install no U-turn signs at Daves Avenue and Lark Avenue.

- **Why are the bike lanes being placed curb-side of the parking areas?**
 - Placing the bike lane at the curb side, with parallel parking between the bike lane and the travel lane, creates separation between people biking and moving vehicles, making biking a more comfortable and enjoyable experience. Additionally, with this configuration drivers don't have to cross the bike lane to pull into or out of a parking space.

- **Why is the right turn lane from Winchester Boulevard to Daves Avenue being removed? Cars making that right turn will now have to stop in the through lane if there are pedestrians or bicycles crossing Daves Avenue. Won't this make the situation worse?**
 - There is not enough roadway space to provide both a right turn lane and separated bike facilities at this location. It is important to provide a continuous bicycle facility to achieve the benefits from the project. We recognize that this may create some additional delay for vehicles during certain times of day. Providing protected bike lanes will allow more people to choose to travel by bike.

- **Can additional improvements be made to reduce the conflict between northbound bicyclists who have the green light at the major intersections and the vehicle traffic merging from the free right turn lanes on the side streets?**
 - The current project is including those bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements that can be accomplished predominately using only signs and pavement markings. The proposed improvements will clearly announce that motorists turning right should yield to people walking and biking at these crossings. The more comprehensive Winchester Boulevard Complete Streets Project is anticipated to include more extensive physical improvements to further improve bicycle and pedestrian safety, including the conflict mentioned above.

- **We set our garbage and recycling containers at the curb line on Winchester for pick up. Will the trucks be able to collect our containers if we continue to place them at the curb?**
 - Garbage and recycling containers should be placed within the marked buffer between the protected bike lane and the vehicle lane.

- **If you add bike bollards, will the street sweepers be able to keep the streets and bicycle lanes swept?**
 - Yes, the streets and bike lanes will be swept regularly. The Town has access to special street sweeping equipment that is currently used for the similar treatment on Blossom Hill Broad.

- **Is the Town prepared to maintain and replace the bicycle bollards if they get knocked down?**
 - Yes, the Town will keep stock of the bollards and replace in case of emergency.

- **When will the project be constructed?**
 - The work for the Winchester Boulevard Class IV Bicycle Lane Project will be combined and constructed with the upcoming street resurfacing project on Winchester Boulevard currently scheduled for the Spring/Summer of 2021.

- **Why is Winchester Boulevard being repaved. Is it just because of this project?**
 - The pavement on Winchester Boulevard is currently in need of rehabilitation. The existing Pavement Condition Index (PCI) of this section of roadway is below 50, which is in the “Poor” condition category. To address this situation, the Town earmarked funding from SB1 for use in the rehabilitation of Winchester Boulevard in FY 2020/21.

- **What is the schedule for the design of the project?**
 - The schedule for the completion of the final design for the Winchester Class IV Bicycle Lane Improvement Project is November 2020. Completion of the design

work in November of 2020 will allow the final improvements to be bid and constructed in conjunction with the Town's SB1 repaving project for Winchester Boulevard in 2021.

- **What is the budget for the project?**
 - The Winchester Boulevard Class IV Protected Bikeway Project is included in the Town's Fiscal Year 2020-21 Capital Improvement Program with a total budgeted amount of \$982,455. This includes a Transportation Fund for Clean Air (TFCA) grant of \$293,900 from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

FAQ's regarding the Winchester Boulevard Complete Streets Project:

- **When will the full Winchester Boulevard Complete Streets Project be constructed?**
 - The Winchester Complete Streets Project is currently in the conceptual design stage. Based on the available funding, final design will take place in 2022-24 or 2024-26, with construction following the completion of design. It is likely construction will not take place until the 2028 timeframe.
- **What will be included in the Winchester Boulevard Complete Streets Project?**
 - Treatments likely to be included in the final design for the Winchester Boulevard Complete Streets Project are protected bike lanes with landscaped separations, enhanced pedestrian crossings, closure of existing gaps in the sidewalk with new sidewalk, additional sidewalk improvements, pedestrian refuge islands, landscaped medians, additional intersection modifications, and stormwater infiltration/treatment facilities.
- **How is the Winchester Boulevard Complete Streets Project funded?**
 - Measure B federal funding for the final design of the Winchester Boulevard Complete Streets Project has been obtained, however due to the funding cycle, the final design process may begin in either the Fiscal Year 2022/24 or 2024/26 range. The Town will continue to look for grant funding opportunities for the construction of the project.
- **How will the Town make sure the improvements installed with the Winchester Class IV Bicycle Lane Project will be consistent with those included in the future Winchester Boulevard Complete Streets Project?**
 - At the June 16, 2020 Town Council meeting, Council approved an amendment to the existing consultant services agreement with Kimley-Horn and Associates to include the design of the Winchester Boulevard Class IV Bicycle Lane Project. As Kimley-Horn is also completing the design work for the overall Winchester

Complete Streets Project, the amendment allows for the work of the two projects to be integrated and compatible.

- **Why are protected bike lanes being installed now instead of waiting for the Complete Streets Project?**
 - The Winchester Boulevard Class IV Protected Bike Lanes project can be designed and constructed within eighteen months and will provide immediate safety improvements for bicyclists and pedestrians. The Winchester Boulevard Complete Streets Project will be a much more extensive and comprehensive project with a longer design and construction process. Construction completion of the larger project is potentially slated for 2028.